

History B (Modern World)

OCR GCSE (Short Course) in History B J117

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IMPORTANT

Controlled Assessment is stored electronically and moderation samples submitted in their electronic format.

To offer this qualification, centres MUST:

1. Be a registered EDI (Electronic Data Information) user. For more information on EDI please go to the OCR website at www.ocr.org.uk or refer to the Entry Instructions within the Administrative Guide and Entry Procedures (E3) folder.

Basic guidance on the production of electronic Controlled Assessment is provided in Appendix C.

For further guidance on requirements for electronic Controlled Assessment, contact general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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Content

IMPORTANT	2
1 About these Qualifications	5
1.1 GCSE (Short Course)	6
1.2 Qualification Titles and Levels	6
1.3 Aims and learning outcomes	7
1.4 Prior Learning/Attainment	7
2 Summary of Content	8
2.1 GCSE (Short Course) Units	8
3 Content	9
3.1 <i>Unit A981 International Relations, 1919–2005</i>	9
3.2 Unit A973: <i>Significance and Representations and Interpretations</i>	14
4 Schemes of Assessment	17
4.1 GCSE (Short Course) Scheme of Assessment	17
4.2 Entry Options	18
4.3 Tiers	18
4.4 Assessment Availability	18
4.5 Assessment Objectives	18
4.6 Quality of Written Communication	19
5 Controlled Assessment	20
5.1 The controlled assessment units	20
5.2 Task setting	20
5.3 Task taking	20
5.4 Task marking	22
5.5 Minimum Requirements for Controlled Assessment	24
6 Technical Information	25
6.1 Making Unit Entries	25
Significance and Representations and Interpretations	25
6.2 Terminal Rules	25
6.3 Unit and Qualification Re-sits	25
6.4 Making Qualification Entries	25
6.5 Grading	26
6.6 Result Enquiries and Appeals	26
6.7 Shelf-Life of Units	27
6.8 Guided Learning Hours	27
6.9 Code of Practice/Subject Criteria/Common Criteria Requirements	27
6.10 Prohibited Qualifications and Classification Code	27
6.11 Disability Discrimination Act Information Relating to this Specification	27
6.12 Arrangements for Candidates with Particular Requirements	28
6.13 OCR Repository	28
7 Other Specification Issues	29

Contents

7.1	Overlap with other Qualifications	29
7.2	Progression from these Qualifications	29
7.3	Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social, Legislative, Economic and Cultural Issues	29
7.4	Sustainable Development, Health and Safety Considerations and European Developments consistent with international agreements	29
7.5	Avoidance of Bias	30
7.6	Language	30
7.7	Key Skills	30
7.8	ICT	31
7.9	Citizenship	32

Appendix A: Grade Descriptions	33
Appendix B: Marking Criteria for Controlled Assessments	35
Appendix C: Guidance for the Production of Electronic Controlled Assessment	38

1 About these Qualifications

This booklet contains OCR's GCSE short course specification in History B for teaching from September 2009.

Key features

- A clear progression route to the revised OCR A/AS Level History specifications.
- A choice of International Relations Core, either 1919–1939 or 1945–c.1989, charting key changes, defining key issues and including key people and events throughout the chosen time period.
- Controlled Assessment (25%) which requires the completion of two tasks based on one of four options
 1. significance
 2. interpretations and representations, ..
- Associated full GCSE History Qualification.

This specification requires the study of:

key events, people, changes and issues identified through key questions and focus points in the core and coursework units.

- **key features and characteristics of the periods, societies, situations specified**, and, where appropriate, **the social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity** of the societies studied and **the experiences of men and women** in these societies identified through key questions and focus points in the core
- **a significant element of British history**, building on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired at key stage 3
- **history on two different scales**: international, through the study of international relations, and national

history in two different ways: an outline study of developments in international relations from the end of the First World War to the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe , and studies in the controlled assessment unit. The core content will therefore be concerned with a single theme (international relations) in contrast to the four options of the controlled assessment.

history from a variety of perspectives – political, social, economic and cultural

- **history through a range of sources** of information, including ICT, appropriate to the period, such as written and visual sources, artefacts, music, oral accounts, and building and sites, as demonstrated in controlled assessment.

1.1 GCSE (Short Course)

From September 2009 the GCSE is made up of two mandatory units. One is externally assessed and one is controlled assessment.

A981: International Relations Core 1919–2005.

A973: Controlled Assessment

1.2 Qualification Titles and Levels

This qualification are shown on a certificate as:

- OCR GCSE (Short Course) in History B.

This qualification is approved by the regulatory authorities (QCA, DCELLS and CCEA) as part of the National Qualifications Framework.

Candidates who gain Grades D to G will have achieved an award at Foundation Level 1 (Level 1 of the National Qualifications Framework).

Candidates who gain Grades A* to C will have achieved an award at Intermediate Level 2 (Level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework).

1.3 Aims and learning outcomes

GCSE specifications in history should encourage candidates to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors. They should prepare candidates to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

GCSE specifications in history must enable candidates to:

- actively engage in the process of historical enquiry to develop as effective and independent candidates and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- develop their knowledge and coherent understanding of selected periods, societies and aspects of history;
- develop an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and accorded significance for different reasons and purposes;
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context;
- organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in creative and different ways and reach substantiated judgments;
- recognise that their historical knowledge, understanding and skills help them understand the present and also provide them with a basis for their role as responsible citizens, as well as for the possible further study of history.

1.4 Prior Learning/Attainment

Candidates entering this course should have achieved a general educational level equivalent to National Curriculum Level 3, or 'Entry 3' at Entry Level within the National Qualifications Framework.

2 Summary of Content

2.1 GCSE (Short Course) Units

Unit A981: International Relations 1919–2005

The content consists of a three part International Relations Core, 1919–2005.

Candidates study any **one** part.

Part 1. The Inter-War Years 1919–1939

Part 2. The Cold War 1945–1975

Part 3. 1948–2005: A New World?

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate their ability to describe and explain historical change and cause, and analyse different features of historical situations. Candidates will also be expected to use their contextual knowledge to help them comprehend, interpret, evaluate and use historical sources.

There will be one written examination paper divided into two sections.

- Section A has three structured questions, one on *The Inter-War Years 1919–1939*, one on *The Cold War 1945–1975* and one on *1948–2005: A New World?*. Candidates must answer one question.
- Section B has six structured questions, two on *The Inter-War Years 1919–1939*, two on *The Cold War 1945–1975* and two on *1948–2005: A New World?* Candidates must answer one question.

Unit A973: Controlled Assessment

OCR will issue titles and mark schemes for this unit. Centres must choose one of the following options.

These tasks will be renewed each year.

The controlled assessment component will be assessed out of 50 marks, of which 25 marks are allocated to AO1 and AO2 and 25 marks are allocated to AO3.

Candidates must not base controlled assessment on content that will be examined in any other unit in the specification.

Controlled assessment must be based on one of four options:

- *The Role of the Individual in History*
- *The Role of a Factor in Twentieth Century History*
- *A Modern World Study*
- *A Study in Depth*

3 Content

3.1 *Unit A981 International Relations, 1919–2005*

This unit consists of a three-part International Relations Core, 1919–2005. Candidates must study **one** part.

The specified content is defined through a number of Key Questions and Focus Points. The Key Questions define the topics as well as encouraging an issues based and investigative approach to the content. Focus Points indicate the issues that need to be addressed in each Key Question. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the Key Questions and Focus Points using knowledge of relevant historical examples.

Core Content: International Relations, 1919–2005

Part 1: The Inter-War Years 1919–1939

Key Question 1: Were the Peace Treaties of 1919–23 fair?

Focus Points

- What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at Versailles?
- Why did the victors not get everything they wanted?
- What was the immediate impact of the peace treaty on Germany up to 1923?
- Could the treaties be justified at the time?

Specified Content

The peace treaties of 1919–23 (Versailles, St. Germain, Trianon, Sevres and Lausanne); the roles of individuals such as Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George in the peacemaking process; the impact of the treaties on the defeated countries; contemporary reactions to, and opinions about, the treaties.

Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

Focus Points

- What were the aims of the League?
- How successful was the League in the 1920s?
- How far did weaknesses in the League's organisation make failure inevitable?
- How far did the Depression make the work of the League more difficult?
- Why did the League fail over Manchuria and Abyssinia?

Specified Content

The aims of the League, its strengths and weaknesses in structure and organisation; successes and failures in peacekeeping during the 1920s; disarmament; the work of the Court of International Justice; the ILO and the Special Commissions; the impact of the World Depression on the work of the League after 1929; the failures of the League in Manchuria and Abyssinia.

Key Question 3: Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

Focus Points

- What were the long-term consequences of the peace treaties of 1919–23?
- What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930s?
- How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939?
- Was the policy of appeasement justified?
- How important was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?
- Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?

Specified Content

The collapse of international order in the 1930s; the increasing militarism of Germany, Italy and Japan; Hitler's foreign policy up to 1939; the Saar, remilitarization of the Rhineland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland; the Nazi-Soviet Pact; appeasement and the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Part 2. The Cold War 1945–1975

Key Question 4: Who was to blame for the Cold War?

Focus Points

- Why did the USA-USSR alliance begin to break down in 1945?
- How had the USSR gained control of Eastern Europe by 1948?
- How did the USA react to Soviet expansionism?
- Who was more to blame for the start of the Cold War, the USA or the USSR?

Specified Content

The origins of the Cold War; the 1945 summit conferences including the parts played by Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin and Truman, and the breakdown of the USA-USSR alliance in 1945-6; Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe; the Iron Curtain; the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan; the Berlin Blockade and its immediate consequences.

Key Question 5: Who won the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Focus Points

- How did the USA react to the Cuban Revolution?
- Why did Khrushchev put missiles into Cuba?
- Why did Kennedy react as he did?
- Who won the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Specified Content

The Cuban Revolution and the USA's reaction to it; the Bay of Pigs; the events of the Crisis including the roles of Khrushchev and Kennedy; the resolution and the consequences of the Crisis.

Key Question 6: Why did the USA fail in Vietnam?

Focus Points

- Why did the USA get increasingly involved in Vietnam?
- What were the different ways that the USA and the Communists fought the war?
- Whose tactics were the most effective – the USA's or the Communists'?
- Why did the USA withdraw from Vietnam?

Specified Content

Increasing American involvement in Vietnam under Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson; the main events of the war and the tactics used by the two sides; reasons for American withdrawal.

Part 3. 1948–2005: A New World?

Key Question 7: How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Focus Points

- Why was there opposition to Soviet control in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, and how did the USSR react to this opposition?
- How similar were events in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968?
- Why was the Berlin Wall built in 1961?
- How important was 'Solidarity'?
- How far was Gorbachev responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Empire?

Specified Content

The nature of Soviet control in Eastern Europe from 1948; the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 and the Soviet reaction; the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961; the 'Prague Spring' of 1968 and the Soviet reaction; 'Solidarity' in Poland; Gorbachev's policies and other factors and the collapse of Soviet control in Eastern Europe, including the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Key Question 8: How effective has terrorism been since 1969?

Focus Points

- What is terrorism and why do people become terrorists?
- Why terrorism is generally condemned?
- How different are terrorist groups in their membership, aims, motives and methods?
- How important are the leaders of terrorist groups?
- How have governments reacted to terrorism?
- How effective have terrorist groups been?

Specified Content

The aims, methods, and effectiveness of: the Provisional IRA, 1969-1998; from the emergence of the IRA to the Good Friday Agreement; the Palestine Liberation Organisation 1969-1993, from Yasser Arafat; becoming Chairman to the Oslo Accords; al-Qaeda, the mid-1980s to 2004, from the resistance against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to the American 'War on Terror' post 9/11.

Candidates will not be required to have a detailed knowledge of the history of these three groups but will need to have knowledge of the main events and developments relating to these groups.

Key Question 9: What is the significance of the Iraq War?

Focus Points

- Why did the multi-national force invade Iraq in 2003?
- How was the invasion completed so quickly?
- Why was there opposition in many countries to the invasion?
- What were the consequences of the invasion inside Iraq and internationally?

Specified Content

The debate over weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein's human rights record, claims about his links with al-Qaeda, 9/11, spreading democracy, Iraq's oil. The roles of the UN, Bush and Blair. Opposition to the invasion in Britain and in other parts of the world. The main events of the invasion. The post-invasion condition of Iraq: break down in law and order, the insurgency, the methods used by the Americans and the British against the insurgency. Everyday life for the Iraqi people, human rights abuses. The elections of 2005 and the setting up of the Transitional Government. The international consequences of the Iraq War.

3.2 Unit A973: *Significance and Representations and Interpretations*

Candidates will complete a single controlled assessment unit comprising two tasks. The first will assess representations and interpretations; the second will assess significance. This unit will represent 25% of the total marks available on the complete specification. Both tasks must be based on one of the four options.

Candidates will satisfy the controlled assessment requirements by writing about 1000 words for each task or 2000 words in total. However, this figure is given only as guidance and it is recognised that many candidates may write more or less than this.

Safety during fieldwork is paramount and candidates should be involved in Risk Assessment as part of their preparation for controlled assessment, when relevant.

Candidates must not base controlled assessment on content that will be examined in any other unit in the specification.

OCR will issue the questions for these tasks and will issue new tasks each year.

Centres must use the new OCR issued task each year. It will not be possible to carry forward a task from one academic year to the next.

The controlled assessment unit will be assessed out of 50 marks, of which 25 marks are allocated to AO1 and AO2 and 25 marks are allocated to AO3.

Candidates must complete two tasks, each worth a maximum of 25 marks.

Task 1. Representations and Interpretations

(1a and b)

Questions 1 (a) and (b) should be based on 5-6 representations and interpretations chosen by the centre. These should be mostly, or all, pictorial. A range of different types should be provided and they should provide different impressions of the chosen subject/topic although there should also be some areas of agreement. Make sure your choice of representations and interpretations allows the top bands of the mark scheme to be reached.

(1c)

This question should be based on 5-6 representations and interpretations. These can be the same as those used in parts **(a) and (b)** although it is permissible to change some of them if others work better with the **(c)** question. For example, it might be necessary to replace some to introduce more issues about why they differ. Make sure your choice of representations and interpretations allows the top bands of the mark scheme to be reached.

Task 2. Significance

(2a, b and c)

The stem provided for each OCR set question must be used but it can be adapted to meet the requirements of the option studied.

Controlled Assessment

The tasks must be based on **one of four** options. Candidates complete both tasks from the **one** Option that they have chosen:

Option 1. The Role of the Individual in History

Candidates will study the role of an individual in:

- twentieth/twenty-first century history. They should consider the significance of the chosen individual and should also consider how important individual people can be in bringing about change. This should involve considering both the immediate and the long-term importance of the individual. The latter will involve the study extending beyond the lifetime of the individual. The importance of other factors should also be considered and this will include a study of the broad context of the time.
- The nature of different representations and interpretations of the individual across time should be studied. The reasons for the different interpretations and representations should also be considered.

Option 2. The Role of a Factor in History

Candidates will study the role of a factor, for example, war or technology, across approximately 40 years of the twentieth/twenty-first centuries.

- The impact of the factor on change and regression and on people's lives.
- They should consider the significance of this chosen factor. This should include the study of the impact of the factor on change and regression. The reasons for the different interpretations and representations should also be considered.

Option 3. A Modern World Study

Candidates will study a contemporary major issue, for example, international terrorism, that is in the news during the course of study:

- They should study what is happening today and the reasons why the issue is important. The causes of the situation today should also be studied over a period of approximately 50 years.
- Candidates should study different representations and interpretations of the issue and events related to it. The reasons for the different interpretations and representations should also be considered.

Option 4. A Study in Depth

Candidates will study a society in depth over a period of approximately twenty years. The chosen society should come from within the period 1850-2005:

- Different features of the society should be studied. For example, the role of women, social developments. The importance of the chosen society and key developments, issues and individuals, within it should also be studied.
- Candidates should study different interpretations and representations of the period. The reasons for the different interpretations and representations should be considered.

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4 Schemes of Assessment

4.1 GCSE (Short Course) Scheme of Assessment

GCSE (Short Course) History B J117

Unit A981: *International Relations, 1919–2005*

50% of the total GCSE marks

1 hr 30 minutes written paper

50 marks

This question paper has **three** sections:

Sections A, B and C: Candidates must answer questions from ONE of these sections depending on which section of the core content they have studied.

Candidates answer Question 1 and either Question 2 or 3

- Candidates answer Section A if they have studied The Inter-War Years 1919–1939

- Candidates answer Section B if they have studied The Cold War 1945–1975

- Candidates answer Section C if they have studied 1948–2005: A New World?

This unit is externally assessed.

Unit A973: *Significance and Representations and Interpretations*

50% of the total GCSE marks

2 Assignments

50 marks

Candidates work must be based on one of four options.

Candidates must complete two tasks. The first will assess representations and interpretations, the second will assess significance.

This unit is internally assessed.

4.2 Entry Options

GCSE (Short Course) candidates must be entered for both units.

Candidates must be entered for certification to claim their overall GCSE qualification grade. All candidates should be entered under the following certification code:

OCR GCSE (Short Course) in History B – J117.

4.3 Tiers

This scheme of assessment is untiered, covering all of the ability range grades from A* to G. Candidates achieving less than the minimum mark for Grade G will be ungraded.

4.4 Assessment Availability

There is one examination series each year, in June.

GCSE (Short Course) units will be assessed from 2010.

4.5 Assessment Objectives

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1 Recall, Select and Communicate

- recall, select, use and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history;

AO2 Explanation and Analysis

Demonstrate their understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of:

- Key concepts: causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context
- Key features and characteristics of the periods studied and the relationships between them

AO3 Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

Understand, analyse and evaluate:

- a range of source material as part of an historical enquiry
- how aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways as part of an historical enquiry

AO weightings – GCSE (Short Course)

The relationship between the components and the assessment objectives of the scheme of assessment is shown in the following grid.

Unit	% of GCSE			Total
	AO1	AO2	AO3	
Unit A981: <i>International Relations, 1919–2005</i>	20	15	15	50%
Unit A973: <i>Significance and Representations and Interpretations</i>	10	15	25	50%
	30%	30%	40%	100%

4.6 Quality of Written Communication

Quality of written communication is assessed in Unit A981 and in Task 2 (significance) of unit A973.

Candidates are expected to:

- ensure that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear;
- present relevant information in a form that suits its purpose;
- use a suitable structure and style of writing.

The quality of written communication covers clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, grammar, punctuation and spelling. It is one of the criteria used to determine the place of a response within a level in mark schemes.

Within Controlled Assessment Centres may find the following levels useful when considering standards of written communication.

Standard

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with reasonable accuracy; they use a limited range of specialist terms appropriately.

Intermediate

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with considerable accuracy; they use a good range of specialist terms with facility.

High

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with almost faultless accuracy, deploying a range of grammatical constructions; they use a wide range of specialist terms adeptly and with precision.

5 Controlled Assessment

5.1 The controlled assessment units

Unit A973 has been designed to be internally assessed, applying the principles of controlled assessment. Controls are set within the assessments so that validity and reliability are ensured and the assessors can confidently authenticate the candidates' work. These controls take a variety of forms in each of the stages of the assessment process: task setting, task taking and task marking. Within each of these three stages there are different levels of control. This section sets out the overall OCR approach, but the Scheme of Assessment sections of the units include more detail and any specific requirements.

5.2 Task setting

5.2.1 The OCR approach

OCR will assume a high level of control in relation to the setting of tasks. A number of controlled assessment tasks will be available from OCR for the controlled assessment units. These tasks have been designed to meet the full assessment requirements of the unit. Candidates will need to take part in a planned learning programme that covers the underpinning knowledge and skills of the unit in addition to completing the evidence requirements of the designated assessment tasks.

5.2.2 Using controlled assessment tasks

Centres can choose to complete their two tasks from one of four options offered by OCR. OCR will issue two generic questions which can be used with a minimum amount of adaptation with any of the four options so that they allow the usage of local resources available to any centre.

The same OCR controlled assessment task must NOT be used as the practice material and then as the actual live assessment material. Centres should devise their own practice material using the OCR specimen controlled assessment task as guidance.

5.3 Task taking

5.3.1 The OCR approach

OCR will assume a high level of control in relation to the taking of the tasks. The task taking parameters will be defined for several key controls and the remainder set by centres as outlined below.

5.3.2 Definitions of the controls

(a) **Authenticity control:** Candidates will complete all work for assessment under direct teacher supervision except as outlined below. For GCSE in history most, but not all, work for assessment would be under direct teacher supervision, for example, it is acceptable for some aspects of

exploration to be outside the direct supervision of the teacher but the teacher must be able to authenticate the work and insist on acknowledgement and referencing of any sources used.

(b) **Feedback control:** Feedback to candidates will be encouraged but tightly defined. Within GCSE in History OCR expects teachers to supervise and guide candidates who are undertaking work which is internally assessed. The degree of teacher guidance in candidates' work will vary according to the kinds of work being undertaken. It should be remembered, however, that candidates are required to reach their own judgements and conclusions. When supervising tasks, teachers are expected to:

- exercise continuing supervision of work in order to monitor progress and to prevent plagiarism;
- exercise continuing supervision of practical work to ensure essential compliance with Health and Safety requirements;
- ensure that the work is completed in accordance with the specification requirements and can be assessed in accordance with the specified marking criteria and procedures.

(c) **Time control:** The time recommended for candidates to complete the assessment task is 20 hours (10 hours per task) OCR recommends 6 hours as an appropriate amount of time for candidates to carry out the necessary preparation for each task: research, note taking, planning and drafting. The writing-up of the final piece of work for each task is recommended at a further 4 hours. The teaching time for coverage of the study unit is in addition to these recommendations. Tasks will be set within a broader learning programme which will allow the acquisition of subject specific knowledge and the development of appropriate practical skills.

Controlled assessed work should be supervised and marked by the teacher. Some of the work, by its very nature, may be undertaken outside the centre, e.g. research work, testing, etc. But it is likely that using or applying this material will be undertaken under direct teacher supervision. With all internally assessed work, the teacher must be satisfied that the work submitted for assessment is the candidate's own work and be able to authenticate it using the specified procedure.

(d) **Collaboration control:** Candidates must complete and/or evidence all work individually. With reference to collaboration control, all assessment evidence will be provided by the individual candidate.

(e) **Resource control:** Access to resources will be limited to those appropriate to the task and as required by the unit. Candidates will need to be provided with the most appropriate materials and equipment to allow them full access to the marking criteria. For most units basic workshop, laboratory or workplace equipment will be adequate; however, for specific units the use of specialist equipment and software will be required to enable the candidate to achieve fully.

5.3.3 Quality assuring the controls

It is the responsibility of the Head of Centre to ensure that the controls set out in the specification and the individual units are imposed.

5.3.4 Completing the tasks

Candidates should be allowed sufficient time to complete all of the tasks. It is suggested that evidence is produced in several sessions, each focussing on a specific task within the overall task or scenario. These may be interspersed with opportunities to learn sector knowledge and develop appropriate practical skills

Each candidate must produce individual and authentic evidence for each of the tasks. It is particularly important that candidates working in groups, where the unit allows this, should still produce individual evidence of their contribution to ongoing group work and any final realisation or outcome.

Centre staff may give support and guidance to candidates. This support and guidance should focus on checking that candidates understand what is expected of them. It is not acceptable for tutors to provide writing frames, model answers or to work through answers in detail.

Candidates may use information from any relevant source to help them with producing evidence for the tasks unless there are any restrictions on any evidence or resources to be used, if this the case it will be clearly identified within the particular unit.

Where a dataset or case material is provided it is acknowledged that candidates in their responses will refer to situations in the assessment material but as this is fictitious this does not break any rules of confidentiality or copyright. However, in general, candidates must be guided on the use of information from other sources to ensure that confidentiality and intellectual property rights are maintained at all times. It is essential that any material directly used from a source is appropriately and rigorously referenced.

5.3.5 Presentation of work

Candidates must observe certain procedures in the production of controlled assessments.

- Tables, graphs and spreadsheets may be produced using appropriate ICT. These should be inserted into the report at the appropriate place.
- Any copied material must be suitably acknowledged.
- Quotations must be clearly marked and a reference provided wherever possible.
- Work submitted for moderation or marking must be marked with the:

centre number;
centre name;
candidate number;
candidate name;
specification code and title;
task title.

Work submitted on paper for moderation or marking must be secured by treasury tags. Work submitted in digital format (online to the OCR Repository) must be in a suitable file structure with each file clearly named with the unit code, centre number and candidate number.

5.4 Task marking

5.4.1 The OCR approach

OCR will assume a medium level of control in relation to the marking of tasks. All controlled assessment units will be marked by the centre assessor(s) using awarding body marking grids and guidance and moderated by the OCR appointed moderator. External moderation will take the form of postal moderation or e-moderation via the OCR-Repository where evidence in a digital format is submitted.

5.4.2 Applying the assessment criteria

The starting point for marking the tasks is the marking criteria and levels mark scheme within the unit. These contain levels of criteria for the skills, knowledge and understanding that the candidate is required to demonstrate. Before the start of the course, and for use at INSET training events, OCR will provide exemplification through real or simulated candidate work which will help to clarify the level of achievement the assessors should be looking for when awarding marks.

5.4.3 Use of ‘best fit’ approach to marking grids

The assessment task(s) for each unit should be marked by the teacher according to the given marking criteria within the relevant unit using a ‘best fit’ approach. For each of the assessment objectives/criteria, one of the band descriptors provided in the marking grid that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked should be selected.

Marking should be positive, rewarding achievement rather than penalising failure or omissions. The award of marks must be directly related to the marking criteria.

Teachers use their professional judgement in selecting the band descriptor that best describes the work of the candidate.

To select the most appropriate mark within the band descriptor, teachers should use the following guidance:

- Where the candidate’s work *convincingly* meets the statement, the highest mark should be awarded;
- Where the candidate’s work *adequately* meets the statement, the most appropriate mark in the middle range should be awarded;
- Where the candidate’s work *just* meets the statement, the lowest mark should be awarded.

Centres should use the full range of marks available to them; centres must award *full* marks in any band for work which fully meets that descriptor. This is work which is ‘the best one could expect from candidates working at that level’. Where there are only two marks within a band the choice will be between work which, in most respects, meets the statement and work which just meets the statement. For wider mark bands the marks on either side of the middle mark(s) for ‘adequately met’ should be used where the standard is lower or higher than ‘adequate’ but **not** the highest or lowest mark in the band.

Only one mark per assessment objective/criteria will be entered. The final mark for the candidate for each task is out of a total of 25/50 and is found by totalling the marks for each of the marking objective/criteria strands.

5.4.4 Authentication

Teachers/course tutors must be confident that the work they mark is the candidate’s own. This does not mean that a candidate must be supervised throughout the completion of all work but the teacher/course tutor must exercise sufficient supervision, or introduce sufficient checks, to be in a position to judge the authenticity of the candidate’s work.

Wherever possible, the teacher/course tutor should discuss work-in-progress with candidates. This will not only ensure that work is underway in a planned and timely manner but will also provide opportunities for assessors to check authenticity of the work and provide general feedback.

Candidates must not plagiarise. Plagiarism is the submission of another’s work as one’s own and/or failure to acknowledge the source correctly. Plagiarism is considered to be malpractice and could lead to the candidate being disqualified. Plagiarism sometimes occurs innocently when candidates are unaware of the need to reference or acknowledge their sources. It is therefore important that centres ensure that candidates understand that the work they submit must be their own and that they understand the meaning of plagiarism and what penalties may be applied. Candidates may refer to research, quotations or evidence but they must list their sources. The rewards from acknowledging sources, and the credit they will gain from doing so, should be emphasised to candidates as well as the potential risks of failing to acknowledge such material. Centres should reinforce this message to ensure candidates understand what is expected of them.

Please note: Centres must confirm to OCR that the evidence produced by candidates is authentic. The Centre Authentication Form provided by OCR includes a declaration for assessors to sign. It is a requirement of the QCA Common Criteria for all Qualifications that proof of authentication is received.

5.4.5 Internal standardisation

It is important that all internal assessors, working in the same subject area, work to common standards. Centres must ensure that the internal standardisation of marks across assessors and teaching groups takes place using an appropriate procedure.

This can be done in a number of ways. In the first year, reference material and OCR training meetings will provide a basis for Centres' own standardisation. In subsequent years, this, or Centres' own archive material, may be used. Centres are advised to hold preliminary meetings of staff involved to compare standards through cross-marking a small sample of work. After most marking has been completed, a further meeting at which work is exchanged and discussed will enable final adjustments to be made.

5.4.6 Moderation

Information on process

All work is marked by the teacher and internally standardised by the centre. Marks are then submitted to OCR by 15 May for the June examination, after which moderation takes place in accordance with OCR procedures. The purpose of moderation is to ensure that the standard of the award of marks for work is the same for each centre and that each teacher has applied the standards appropriately across the range of candidates within the centre.

The sample of work which is presented to the Moderator for moderation must show how the marks have been awarded in relation to the marking criteria defined in Appendix X.

Each candidate's work should have a cover sheet attached to it with a summary of the marks awarded for each task. If the work is to be submitted in digital format this cover sheet should also be submitted electronically within each candidate's files.

5.5 Minimum Requirements for Controlled Assessment

There should be clear evidence that work has been attempted and some work produced.

If a candidate submits no work for an internally assessed component, then the candidate should be indicated as being absent from that component on the mark sheets submitted to OCR. If a candidate completes any work at all for an internally assessed component, then the work should be assessed according to the internal assessment objectives and marking instructions and the appropriate mark awarded, which may be zero.

6 Technical Information

6.1 Making Unit Entries

Please note that centres must be registered with OCR in order to make any entries, including estimated entries. It is recommended that centres apply to OCR to become a registered centre well in advance of making their first entries. Centres must have made an entry for a unit in order for OCR to supply the appropriate forms and/or moderator details for controlled assessments.

It is essential that unit entry codes are quoted in all correspondence with OCR.

All candidates within a centre must be entered for the same controlled assessment component.

Unit code	Component code	Submission method	Unit title
A973/	01	OCR-Repository	<i>Significance and Representations and Interpretations</i>
	02	Postal moderation	

6.2 Terminal Rules

Candidates must take at least 40% of the assessment in the same series in which they enter for the short course qualification certification.

6.3 Unit and Qualification Re-sits

Candidates may re-sit each unit once before entering for certification for a GCSE.

Candidates may enter for the full qualification an unlimited number of times.

6.4 Making Qualification Entries

Candidates must enter for qualification certification separately from unit assessment(s). If a certification entry is **not** made, no overall grade can be awarded.

Candidates may enter for:

- GCSE (Short Course) certification J117.

A candidate who has completed all the units required for the qualification must enter for certification in the same examination series in which the terminal rules are satisfied.

GCSE (Short Course) certification is available from June 2010.

6.5 Grading

GCSE results are awarded on the scale A*-G. Units are awarded a* to g. Grades are awarded on certificates. However, results for candidates who fail to achieve the minimum grade (G or g) will be recorded as *unclassified* (U or u) and this is **not** certificated.

GCSE are unitised schemes. Candidates can take units across several different series provided the terminal rules are satisfied. They can also re-sit units or choose from optional units available. When working out candidates' overall grades OCR needs to be able to compare performance on the same unit in different series when different grade boundaries have been set, and between different units. OCR uses a Uniform Mark Scale to enable this to be done.

A candidate's uniform mark for each unit is calculated from the candidate's raw marks on that unit. The raw mark boundary marks are converted to the equivalent uniform mark boundary. Marks between grade boundaries are converted on a pro rata basis.

When unit results are issued, the candidate's unit grade and uniform mark are given. The uniform mark is shown out of the maximum uniform mark for the unit e.g. 41/50.

The specification is graded on a Uniform Mark Scale. The uniform mark thresholds for each of the assessments are shown below:

Unit Weighting	Maximum Unit Uniform Mark	Unit Grade									u
		a*	a	b	c	d	e	f	g		
50%	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	0	0

Candidate's uniform marks for each module are aggregated and grades for the specification are generated on the following scale.

GCSE Qualification	Max UMS	Qualification Grade									U
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
GCSE (Short Course)	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0	0

Awarding Grades

The written paper will have a total weighting of 50% and controlled assessment a weighting of 50%.

A candidate's uniform mark for each unit will be combined with the uniform mark for the controlled assessment to give a total uniform mark for the specification. The candidate's grade will be determined by the total uniform mark.

6.6 Result Enquiries and Appeals

Under certain circumstances, a centre may wish to query the grade available to one or more candidates or to submit an appeal against an outcome of such an enquiry. Enquiries about unit results must be made immediately following the series in which the relevant unit was taken.

For procedures relating to enquiries on results and appeals, centres should consult the *Administrative Guide for General Qualifications* and the document *Enquiries about Results and Appeals – Information and Guidance for Centres* produced by the Joint Council. Copies of the most recent editions of these papers can be obtained from OCR.

6.7 Shelf-Life of Units

Individual unit results, prior to certification of the qualification, have a shelf-life limited only by that of the qualification.

6.8 Guided Learning Hours

GCSE (Short Course) History B requires 60-70 guided learning hours in total.

6.9 Code of Practice/Subject Criteria/Common Criteria Requirements

These specifications comply in all respects with the current *GCSE, GCE and AEA Code of Practice* as available on the QCA website, *The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications 2004* and the subject criteria for GCSE History.

6.10 Prohibited Qualifications and Classification Code

Candidates who enter for the OCR GCSE specifications may not also enter for any other GCSE specification with the certification title *History* in the same examination series.

Every specification is assigned to a national classification code indicating the subject area to which it belongs.

The classification code for History specifications is 4010.

Centres should be aware that candidates who enter for more than one GCSE qualification with the same classification code will have only one grade (the highest) counted for the purpose of the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

6.11 Disability Discrimination Act Information Relating to this Specification

GCSEs often require assessment of a broad range of competences. This is because they are general qualifications and, as such, prepare candidates for a wide range of occupations and higher level courses.

The revised GCSE qualifications and subject criteria were reviewed to identify whether any of the competences required by the subject presented a potential barrier to any disabled candidates. If

this was the case, the situation was reviewed again to ensure that such competences were included only where essential to the subject. The findings of this process were discussed with disability groups and with disabled people.

Reasonable adjustments are made for disabled candidates in order to enable them to access the assessments and to demonstrate what they know and can do. For this reason, very few candidates will have a complete barrier to the assessment. Information on reasonable adjustments is found in *Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are Eligible for Adjustments in Examinations* produced by the Joint Council www.jcq.org.uk.

Candidates who are unable to access part of the assessment, even after exploring all possibilities through reasonable adjustments, may still be able to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Candidates with a visual impairment may find this subject difficult to access fully.

6.12 Arrangements for Candidates with Particular Requirements

For candidates who are unable to complete the full assessment or whose performance may be adversely affected through no fault of their own, teachers should consult the *Access Arrangements and Special Consideration Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are Eligible for Adjustments in Examinations* produced by the Joint Council. In such cases advice should be sought from OCR as early as possible during the course.

6.13 OCR Repository

The OCR-Repository allows centres to store controlled assessment electronically and to submit their moderation sample in electronic format.

The OCR GCSE History B (Short Course) units A973 can be submitted electronically: please check Section 6.1 for unit entry codes for the OCR-Repository.

More information on the OCR-Repository can be found in Appendix C: Guidance for the Production of Electronic Assessment.

7 Other Specification Issues

7.1 Overlap with other Qualifications

There is no significant overlap between the content of this specification and that of any other GCSE qualification.

7.2 Progression from these Qualifications

GCSE qualifications are general qualifications which enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Progression to further study from GCSE will depend upon the number and nature of the grades achieved. Broadly, candidates who are awarded mainly Grades D to G at GCSE could either strengthen their base through further study of qualifications at Level 1 within the National Qualifications Framework or could proceed to Level 2. Candidates who are awarded mainly Grades A* to C at GCSE would be well prepared for study at Level 3 within the National Qualifications Framework.

7.3 Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social, Legislative, Economic and Cultural Issues

These specifications enable candidates to develop their understanding of Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social, Legislative, Economic and Cultural Issues in depth. Spiritual issues are addressed, for example, in the Germany Depth Study which requires a study of the Holocaust. Moral and ethical issues are addressed in the core content, for example, in evaluating the fairness of the peace treaties 1919-23, as well as in the Depth Studies. Social issues are addressed, for example, in the British Depth Study where the changes in the roles of women in Britain during the First World War are studied. The Depth Studies, for example, Russia, 1905-1941, and Germany, 1919-1945, address a range of cultural issues by considering the role of culture in society and politics.

Candidates will also consider varied interpretations and representations of different cultures in the Study in Depth.

7.4 Sustainable Development, Health and Safety Considerations and European Developments consistent with international agreements

These specifications support these issues, consistent with current EU agreements, in the following topics:

Health, safety and environmental issues are addressed in the core content, for example, in the study of the work of the International Labour Organisation in relation to health, safety and environmental issues in the workplace, and the work of the Health Committee in fighting dangerous diseases and educating people about health and sanitation.

Environmental issues are also addressed through candidates' understanding of how past actions, choices and values impact on present and future societies, economies and environments.

Safety during fieldwork is paramount and candidates should be involved in Risk Assessment as part of their preparation for coursework.

OCR has taken account of the 1988 Resolution of the Council of the European Community in preparing this specification and associated specimen assessments. European examples should be used where appropriate in the delivery of the subject content. Relevant European legislation is identified within the specification where applicable.

The European dimension is addressed in the core content where both co-operation and conflict between European states are studied. Attempts at co-operation are examined, for example, in the Key question, 'To what extent was the League of Nations a success?', while reasons for conflict between European nations are addressed in the Key question, 'Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?'.

7.5 Avoidance of Bias

OCR has taken great care in preparation of these specifications and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind.

7.6 Language

These specifications and associated assessment materials are in English only.

7.7 Key Skills

This specification provides opportunities for the development of the Key Skills of *Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving* at Levels 1 and/or 2. However, the extent to which this evidence fulfils the Key Skills criteria at these levels will be totally dependent on the style of teaching and learning adopted for each unit.

The following table indicates where opportunities may exist for at least some coverage of the various Key Skills criteria at Levels 1 and/or 2 for each unit.

Unit	C		AoN		IT		WwO		IoLP		PS	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
A981	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A973	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

Detailed opportunities for generating Key Skills evidence through this specification are posted on the OCR website (www.ocr.org.uk). A summary document for Key Skills Coordinators showing ways in which opportunities for Key Skills arise within GCSE courses has been published.

7.8 ICT

In order to play a full part in modern society, candidates need to be confident and effective users of ICT. Where appropriate, candidates should be given opportunities to use ICT in order to further their study of History.

The assessment of this course requires candidates to:

ICT Application/ Development	Opportunities for using ICT during the course
Find things out from a range of sources, select and synthesise information to meet needs.	For controlled assessment candidates access electronic archives, search for and use appropriate websites for museums, government agencies and university departments.
Use a database to search and analyse patterns and test hypotheses effectively	Candidates use CD-ROMs and Websites to test hypotheses about a given topic such as the effectiveness of the League of Nations. Candidates use a database showing changing voting patterns in Germany in the late 1920s and early 1930s to establish patterns in the changing support for the Nazi party.
Develop an ability to question the accuracy, bias and plausibility of information researched.	Candidates evaluate the different interpretations to be found on the internet about, for example, the fall of communism in Europe.
Develop ideas using ICT tools; amend and refine work, and enhance its quality and accuracy.	Candidates may organise and deliver a presentation about, for example, the reasons for America's defeat in the Vietnam War to the rest of the class using Power Point.
Use a word-processing package to organise and classify	Candidates organise and classify different types of causes of the Second World War and produce an annotated causal chain.
Exchange and share information.	E-mail projects may be set up for candidates to communicate with each other, their teacher, an expert or students from another Centre of country. Ideas and information about topics such as the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the fall of Communism in Europe could be exchanged. Candidates can use E-mail or an electronic notice board to collect and pass on revision notes.

7.9 Citizenship

Since September 2002, the National Curriculum for England at Key Stage 4 has included a mandatory programme of study for Citizenship. Parts of this Programme of Study may be delivered through an appropriate treatment of other subjects.

This section offers guidance on opportunities for developing knowledge, skills and understanding of citizenship issues during the course. These opportunities are also indicated within the content of:

Citizenship Programme of Study	Opportunities for teaching citizenship Issues during the course
The legal and human rights and responsibilities underpinning society and how they relate to citizens, including the operation of the criminal and civil justice systems.	These issues are addressed when studying legal and human rights and responsibilities, for example in Nazi Germany and comparing these with the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a modern democratic state.
The work of the parliament, the government and the courts in making and shaping law.	These issues are addressed when studying the making and shaping of laws, for example, in Britain during the First World War and the USA in the 1920s and 1930s. They are also addressed by studying the operation of the League of Nations.
The importance of a free press and the media's role in society.	Study of the importance and role of the media in the chosen Depth Study will give rise to opportunities to discuss the importance of the free media in society
The United Kingdom's relations in Europe.	The changing nature of the United Kingdom's relations in Europe through the twentieth century is studied as part of the core content. This contributes to an understanding of the United Kingdom's relations in Europe today.
Opportunities for individuals and voluntary groups to bring about social change.	The role of influential individuals and groups in bringing about change is studied, for example, in the Depth studies on South Africa, The USA and Germany.
Express, justify and defend orally and in writing a personal opinion about such issues.	Candidates can, through the use of hot seating, express, justify and defend their views about, for example, the policy of appeasement, or America's involvement in Vietnam.
Contribute to group and class discussion and formal debates.	Working in groups, candidates can prepare arguments in favour and against, for example, the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
Use imagination to consider, express, explain and evaluate other people's experiences and opinions.	The Depth Studies and the coursework units provide many opportunities for candidates to understand the experiences and views of other people, for example, different groups in South Africa, Arabs and Israelis, and the various groups in the German society in the 1930s

Appendix A: Grade Descriptions

Grade descriptions are provided to give a general indication of the standards of achievement likely to have been shown by candidates awarded particular grades. The descriptions must be interpreted in relation to the content in the specification; they are not designed to define that content. The grade awarded will depend in practice upon the extent to which the candidate has met the assessment objectives overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of the assessment may be balanced by better performance in others.

The grade descriptors have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

Grade F

Candidates recall, select and organise some relevant historical knowledge to show some basic understanding of historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using everyday language.

They demonstrate their understanding of the past through description of reasons, results and changes in relation to the events, people and issues studied. They provide limited descriptions of events, issues or periods, including characteristic ideas, beliefs and attitudes.

They understand sources of information and, taking them at their face value, begin to consider their usefulness for investigating historical issues and draw simple conclusions.

They identify some differences between ways in which events, people or issues have been represented and interpreted, and may identify some of the reasons for these.

Grade C

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy historical knowledge with accuracy and relevance. They show sound understanding of the historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terminology appropriately.

They demonstrate their understanding of the past through structured descriptions and explanations of the main concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied. Their descriptions are accurate and their explanations show understanding of relevant causes, consequences and changes.

They evaluate and use critically a range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems or issues, and with some limited guidance, to reach reasoned conclusions.

They recognise and comment on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide an appropriate consideration of their value in the historical context.

Grade A

Candidates recall, select, organise and deploy detailed historical knowledge effectively and with consistency. They show thorough understanding of the historical periods, themes and topics studied. They communicate their ideas using historical terms accurately and appropriately.

They demonstrate their understanding of the past through developed, reasoned and well-substantiated explanations. They make perceptive analyses of the key concepts, features and characteristics of the periods studied, and the interrelationships between them.

They evaluate and use critically a wide range of sources of information in an historical context to investigate historical questions, problems or issues independently, and to reach reasoned and substantiated conclusions.

They recognise and provide reasoned comments on how and why events, people and issues have been interpreted and represented in different ways, and provide a well-developed consideration of their value in relation to their historical context.

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Appendix B: Marking Criteria for Controlled Assessments

How to use the mark schemes

- Each band descriptor covers all the relevant assessment objectives for the task.
- The descriptors should be read and applied as a whole.
- The candidate's response to the task should be assessed as a whole. The individual parts of the task should not be assessed separately.
- Make a best-fit match between the answer and the band descriptors.
- An answer does not have to meet all the requirements of a band descriptor before being placed in that band. It will be placed in a particular band when it meets more of the requirements of that band than it meets the requirements of other bands.

When deciding the mark within a band, the following criteria should be applied:

- the extent to which the statements within the band have been achieved;
- the quality of written communication.

For example:

- an answer that convincingly meets nearly all the requirements of a band descriptor should be placed at or near the top of that band
- an answer that meets the requirements of many of the requirements of the band descriptor but never does so in a convincing manner should be placed in the middle of the band. If an answer is on the border line between two bands but it is decided that it fits better the descriptors for the lower of these two bands, then it should be placed near the top of that band.

Controlled Assessment Mark Scheme: Significance

BAND 5: 22 - 25 marks

Candidates:

- Select, organise and deploy effectively and relevantly a wide range of information to support their conclusions. They demonstrate a good understanding of the significance of key features, events, individuals or situations in a broad context, and in the short and the long term. They make sound use of criteria in reaching conclusions about significance. They produce well-developed, well-reasoned and well-supported analyses, explanations, arguments and historical conclusions. They also analyse, as a central feature of the work, a range of factors and interrelationships in the periods, societies and situations studied.

BAND 4: 16 - 21 marks

Candidates:

- Select a range of relevant information which is generally well-organised and deployed relevantly. They demonstrate a sound understanding of the significance of key features, events, individuals or situations including some awareness of the broad context and of short and long term considerations. They make some use of criteria in reaching conclusions about significance. They produce developed, reasoned and supported analyses, explanations, arguments and historical conclusions. They also consider a range of factors and interrelationships in the periods, societies and situations studied.

BAND 3: 12 – 15 marks

Candidates:

- Select and organise information, much of it deployed relevantly. They demonstrate some understanding of the significance of key features, events, individuals or situations with a limited awareness of the broad context or of short and long term considerations. They identify valid criteria for making conclusions about significance but may not always use them in their explanations. They produce structured descriptions and explanations. They produce conclusions but these are not always well substantiated. Some attempt is made to consider a range of factors or interrelationships in the periods, societies and situations studied.

BAND 2: 7 – 11 marks

Candidates:

- Select and organise some relevant knowledge. They describe key features, events, individuals or situations and make assertions about their significance. There is some structure in their descriptions. Their conclusions are not supported. A few other factors are briefly mentioned.

BAND 1: 0 - 6 marks

Candidates:

- Demonstrate limited ability to select and organise information. They describe a few key features, events, individuals or situations. Their work contains some relevant material but this is not often deployed relevantly. The issue of significance is barely mentioned.

Controlled Assessment Mark Scheme: Representations and Interpretations

BAND 5: 22 - 25 marks

Candidates:

- Show a good understanding of a range of representations and interpretations. They demonstrate a high level of ability to interpret, and infer from, representations and interpretations, and to clearly explain several differences and similarities across a range of representations and interpretations.
- Show a good understanding of why events, people or issues have been interpreted and represented in different/similar ways. They make good use of some of the following in their explanations: purpose, audience, context, medium, access to information.
- Select and deploy relevant and accurate contextual knowledge to effectively support their answers.

BAND 4: 16 - 21 marks

Candidates:

- Show a satisfactory understanding of a range of representations and interpretations. They demonstrate the ability to interpret, and infer, from representations and interpretations, and to explain some differences and similarities across several representations and interpretations.
- Show understanding of why events, people or issues have been interpreted and represented in different/similar ways. They can make some valid use of at least one of the following in their explanations: purpose, audience, context, medium, access to information.
- Select and deploy mostly relevant and accurate contextual knowledge to support parts of their answers.

BAND 3: 12 – 15 marks

Candidates:

- Show some understanding of some representations and interpretations. They demonstrate the ability to make some inferences from representations and interpretations, and to explain some basic differences and similarities across at least two representations or interpretations. However, some of their work might use surface readings of the representations and interpretations.
- Show some understanding why events, people or issues have been interpreted and represented in different/similar ways. They can identify some of the following reasons but do not always explain them: purpose, audience, context, medium, access to information.
- Select some relevant contextual knowledge and mostly deploys it relevantly to support parts of their answers.

BAND 2: 7 – 11 marks

Candidates:

- Show understanding of representations and interpretations at a surface level. They can describe some features of the representations and interpretations.
- Can identify differences/similarities between ways in which events, people or issues have been represented and interpreted, and can begin to identify some of the reasons for these differences although some of the answer will be description.
- Some contextual knowledge demonstrated, but limited and not used relevantly.

BAND 1: 0 - 6 marks

Candidates:

- Describe a few surface features of representations and interpretations.
- Attempts to identify differences/similarities between ways in which events, people or issues have been represented and interpreted.
- No relevant contextual knowledge demonstrated.

Appendix C: Guidance for the Production of Electronic Controlled Assessment

The Controlled Assessment in Unit A973 comprises two tasks. For each candidate, the two tasks together form a Controlled Assessment portfolio, stored electronically.

Structure for evidence

A Controlled Assessment portfolio is a collection of folders and files containing the candidate's evidence. Folders should be organised in a structured way so that the evidence can be accessed easily by a teacher or moderator. This structure is commonly known as a folder tree. It would be helpful if the location of particular evidence is made clear by naming each file and folder appropriately and by use of an index, called 'Home Page.'

There should be a top level folder detailing the candidate's centre number, candidate number, surname and forename, together with the Unit code A973, so that the portfolio is clearly identified as the work of one candidate.

Each candidate's Controlled Assessment portfolio should be stored in a secure area on the centre network. Prior to submitting the Controlled Assessment portfolio to OCR, the centre should add a folder to the folder tree containing Controlled Assessment and summary forms.

Data formats for evidence

In order to minimise software and hardware compatibility issues it will be necessary to save candidates' work using an appropriate file format. (Further information on this topic is provided in the separate OCR guidance on digital Controlled Assessment submissions).

Candidates must use formats appropriate to the evidence that they are providing and appropriate to viewing for assessment and moderation. Open file formats or proprietary formats for which a downloadable reader or player is available are acceptable. Where this is not available, the file format is not acceptable.

Electronic Controlled Assessment is designed to give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do using current technology. Candidates do not gain marks for using more sophisticated formats or for using a range of formats. A candidate who chooses to use only digital photographs (as required by the specification) and word documents will not be disadvantaged by that choice.

Evidence submitted is likely to be in the form of word processed documents, PowerPoint presentations, digital photos and digital video.

To ensure compatibility, all files submitted must be in the formats listed below. Word processed documents or PowerPoint presentations must be converted to HTML or PDF formats before submission. OCR will not accept compressed (zipped) file formats. Where new formats become available that might be acceptable, OCR will provide further guidance.

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that the electronic portfolios submitted for moderation are accessible to the moderator and fully represent the evidence available for each candidate.

Accepted File Formats

Movie formats for digital video evidence

MPEG (*.mpg)

QuickTime movie (*.mov)

Macromedia Shockwave (*.aam)

Macromedia Shockwave (*.dcr)

Flash (*.swf)

Windows Media File (*.wmf)

MPEG Video Layer 4 (*.mp4)

Audio or sound formats

MPEG Audio Layer 3 (*.mp3)

Graphics formats including photographic evidence

JPEG (*.jpg)

Graphics file (*.pcx)

MS bitmap (*.bmp)

GIF images (*.gif)

Animation formats

Macromedia Flash (*.fla)

Structured markup formats

HTML (*html, *htm)

XML (*xml)

CSS (*css)

XSL (*xsl/*xslt)

Text formats

PDF (.pdf)

Please consult OCR guidance on digital Controlled Assessment submissions for advice on compatibility of versions of these file formats.